

# THE WEAVERS' SONGS / HILANDO SONES



A FILM BY  
ISMAEL VÁSQUEZ BERNABÉ

77 mins / 2024 / Amuzgo, English Subtitles, Spanish Subtitles / Mexico



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## **FILM FESTIVALS**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

In San Pedro Amuzgos, Oaxaca, Mexico—known as "the town of the spinners"—director Ismael Vásquez Bernabé returns to the community that shaped him. As a child, Vásquez Bernabé would lie under his mother's loom and ponder life beyond his own existence in his small town. Now, as an adult, he follows this curiosity by focusing three key figures of the community. Donato, a recently deceased legendary violinist; his son Lorenzo, who is attempting to uphold his father's legacy; and his own mother, Zoila, the only one of her sisters who still practices the art of weaving. Through these intertwined tales of music, dance, and tradition, the film explores the delicate threads that connect generations and the vital role of preserving cultural practices essential to the survival of an indigenous community. "It's up to us who remain to rescue the cloth on the loom."

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

With *The Weavers' Songs*, my overarching goal has been to portray my indigenous community with all of the complexity and dignity that is so often denied to us. This story is at once local and universal: it exposes the constant negotiation between our culture and the culture that dominates us, never recognizing the knowledge of our communities. We are one thread, just as important as any other, in the loom of human diversity.

Ismael Vásquez Bernabé

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Ismael Vásquez Bernabé (1989, San Pedro Amuzgos, Oaxaca) was a dancer for the "Dance of the Chareos" of his community. In 2016, he completed his first documentary short film "Nkwí Nayà Tónko: compromiso de palabra" which has participated in more than ten exhibitions and film festivals, both Mexican and international. It was the winner of the Best Indigenous Student Documentary at the Latin American Short Film Festival in Barcelona, Spain. In 2017, he began his documentary, *Hilando Sones*, which obtained the National Geographic Early Career Grant and the IMCINE creators' incentive, as well as support from the Sundance Documentary Fund and EFICINE. The award-winning documentary was released in 2024.

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Dirección / Director

Producción / Producers

Compañías productoras / Production Companies

Guión / Story

Fotografía / Director of Photography

Edición / Editor

Música / Music

Sonido directo / Sound Mixers

Diseñador de Sonido / Sound Design

Operador de mezcla THX / THX Mix Operator

Postproducción / Post-production

Colorista / Color

Foto fija / Still Photography

Reparto principal / Main Cast:

Ismael Vásquez Bernabé

Abril Schmucler Iñiguez, Emiliano Altuna

Ficha Cine S de RL de CV, Cine Ch'i Bi,  
Bambú Audiovisual, Estudios Churubusco

Ismael Vásquez Bernabé

Michelle Ibaven

Pedro G. García

Federico Schmucler

Damián Del Río, Jonathan Noveron,

Nicolás A Águilar

Federico Schmucler

Miguel Molina

Bambú Audiovisual

Xicoténcatl Santana

Armando Vega

Zoila Bernabé Merino &

Lorenzo Nuñez Victoria